

H07-138422M/NHK

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of

Kubota, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Unknown

For: PRINT CONTROL METHOD OF ELECTROPHOTOGRAPH AND IMAGE  
FORMATION APPARATUS USING THE METHOD

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

8. (Amended) The print control method of an electrophotograph as claimed in claim 7 wherein  
in the developing device having at least two or more developing rolls, the developing bias  
when the potential is detected is set to the developing bias such that when the potential is  
detected, avoidance control of the developing bias applied to the developing device is  
performed so as to lower the toner covering percentage on the photoconductor, and the  
developing bias avoiding timing is set to the timing such that when the potential is detected,  
avoidance control of the developing bias is performed after the detected potential passes  
through a developing nip width of the developing device in order to suppress the carrier fly.

**REMARKS**

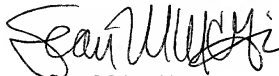
Claim 8 has been amended to delete multiple-dependency.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean M. McGinn

Registration No.: 34,386

Date: February 8, 2002

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC

8321 Old Courthouse Road; Suite 200

Vienna, Virginia 22182-3817

(703) 761-4100

Customer No. 21254

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the claims:**

8. (Amended) The print control method of an electrophotograph as claimed in claim 7 wherein in the developing device having at least two or more developing rolls, the developing bias when the potential is detected is set to the developing bias [as claimed in claim 5] such that when the potential is detected, avoidance control of the developing bias applied to the developing device is performed so as to lower the toner covering percentage on the photoconductor, and the developing bias avoiding timing is set to the timing [as claimed in claim 6] such that when the potential is detected, avoidance control of the developing bias is performed after the detected potential passes through a developing nip width of the developing device in order to suppress the carrier fly.